



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2015

Contact:

State Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) 608-266-5830

State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) 608-266-2343

Joint Finance Co-Chairs Propose Oversight of the State Group Health Plan

MADISON – On Tuesday, Joint Finance Committee Co-chairs State Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) issued the following statement regarding their proposal to ensure legislative oversight of the State Group Health Plan:

“Right now, an important voice isn’t at the table when changes are made to state employee benefits: the voice of the taxpayers. To remedy this problem, we have introduced a bill that will ensure legislative oversight to benefit changes for state employees.

“State employees across Wisconsin are insured through the State Group Health Plan. Although it’s statutorily unclear, the Group Insurance Board (GIB) believes it has policy-making authority over this health care plan. In order to make changes to the plan, GIB does not believe it’s required to work with the legislature.

“Recently, GIB has been considering making changes to our state’s Group Health Plan. Without legislative oversight, these changes have the potential to negatively impact both the health care marketplace and the economy. Our proposal will ensure that there is an open dialogue about possible changes and that the taxpayers are represented in the discussion.

“There is wide bipartisan support for this proposal and we look forward to working with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to maintain the integrity of our state’s health plan.”

With the implementation of this bill, the Joint Finance Committee will be able to approve or disapprove certain changes proposed by GIB. The bill is expected to be discussed on the floor of both houses of the legislature this session.

###